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mer bill provides for the careful selection of proper lands for permanent forests, to be guarded from spoliation and destruction, and for the advantageous sale of merchantable timber under Government supervision, and with constant regard to the preservation of new growths. The bill also makes unauthorized cutting and injury a criminal offence, and establishes a system of guardianship and enforcement of the laws against individuals and corporations. The bill No. 7901 is much more loosely drawn as to protection from waste and injury, and lacks definite and strict methods of enforcing the law.

—Professor Joshua Lindahl, of Rock Island, has been appointed by the Governor of Illinois to the position of Curator of the State Museum at Springfield, in place of the late Professor A. H. Worthen.

—THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA is about to break ground for extensive additions to the reptile house. They are going to build two wings each thirty-two by twenty-eight feet, which will be simply conservatories. In one of these the tree-climbing snakes and lizards will be seen in the natural slate and among plants and shrubs as under natural conditions.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON. — May 19, 1888. — The following communications were read: Mr. F. W. True, "The Hawaiian Bat;" Mr. Wm. T. Hornaday, "Man-Eating Crocodiles;" Dr. C. Hart Merriam, "A Revision of the *Dipodidae*;" Mr. F. A. Lucas, "The Affinities of *Chamæa*."

June 2, 1888. — At the last meeting of the season the following papers were read: Mr. F. H. Knowlton, "Notes on the Fossil Wood of the Yellowstone Natural Park;" Mr. W. B. Alwood, "Notes on the Artificial Pollenation of Wheat;" Mr. F. A. Lucas, "Abnormalities in the Ribs of Birds."

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Saturday Evening May 26th, 1888. — The following communications were read: Mr. Robert T. Edes, "The Sphygmograph;" Mr. H. A. Hazen, "The Recent Mount Vernon (Ill.) Tornado;" Mr. Merwin-Marie Snell, "Observations on Certain Hypnotic Experiments of the Comte de Maricourt;" Professor E. D. Cope, "The Relation of Consciousness to Animal Motion."

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. — May 16, 1888. — Professor Alpheus Hyatt read a paper on "The Evolution of the Faunas in the Lower Lias." Professor W. O. Crosby gave an account of the Geology of Nantasket.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY NATURAL SCIENCES. — November 15, 1887. — Prof. J. A. Ryder spoke of an improved method of preparing sections of animal tissue for microscopic examination. The object is first hardened as usual, then soaked in a solution of celloidin twenty-four hours, then in chloroform until the celloidin is transparent. It is afterward subjected to the action of paraffine before cutting. The use of celloidin enables the operator to make continuous thin sections of the most fragile structure without breaking.

Prof. Heilprin contravened Mr. Boulenger's criticism of his (Prof. Heilprin's) statement regarding the distribution of North American Lizards. He had defined a line drawn from San Francisco to Galveston as the southern boundary of the North American Lizard fauna, while Mr. Boulenger held that the North American fauna was a mere offshoot from that of the southern continent. The genera *Sceloporus*, *Phrynosoma*, *Eumeces*, and *Ophisaurus*, referred by Mr. Boulenger to the South American fauna were by Prof. Heilprin maintained to be North American with considerable distribution in the transition region.

Dr. Leidy called attention to a fragment of metamorphic limestone from Eldorado county, California, bearing on its surface a spot of native gold, and stated that it was the first example he had seen of gold occurring in limestone.

Descriptions of two new species of fishes from South America by Prof. D. S. Jordan, were presented for publication November 22d.

Dr. H. Allen called attention to the rugæ or ridges upon the palate. He proposed to name them the sutural, pre-sutural, and post-sutural folds. He had found certain peculiarities in man which served to distinguish the left side from the right.

The Rev. Dr. McCook described a spider from Florida. The web of this species was distinguished from that of other orb-weavers by having as many as fourteen cocoons, strung in the axis of the upper radius, and connected along one side by thick white threads. He named the species *Cyrtophora bifurca*. Dr. McCook also referred to a communication received Mr. C. Townsend, describing the nests of a white ant found in Honduras. Wood pulp seems to be the material used, and the nests are placed between branches of trees.

December 6, 1887. — Mr. Binder exhibited, among other fine minerals added to the Vaux collection, a specimen of Hiddenite, a mineral which from its rarity, is at present more valuable than the diamond.

Mr. Meehan called attention to the tubers of *Dioscorea eburnea*,

of China. The yield of tubers seemed to be very large, but they were intensely bitter.

December 13, 1887.—Dr. Leidy, in speaking of the presence of parasites in fish, mentioned the fact that the drum fish (*Pogonias chromis*) seemed in some cases to owe its flavor to a parasitic worm, *Acanthorhynchus reptans*. He also mentioned the occurrence of the larvæ of bot flies in terrapins.

December 20, 1887.—Prof. Heilprin discussed the rate of formation of deep sea deposits, and concluded that there were probably unknown factors that involved deposition in past ages at a greater rate than at present. Dr. Dolley remarked that in the Bahamas foraminiferal deposit was comparatively rapid; some of the smaller bays are being filled up by such material. He also spoke of what are called by the natives "banana holes," small pits with a deposit of soil and red earth, which may have been formed by the solution of the lime by the carbonic acid of vegetable matter.

January 10, 1888.—Dr. Leidy described the cranium of a puma recently found under about thirty feet of earth in the bed of the Kaskaskia river, Illinois. It differed from the cranium of recent animals in having a higher inter-parietal crest, a narrower outline, and a flatter forehead.

January 24, 1888.—Prof. W. P. Wilson stated that the appliances for capturing insects were much more efficient in *Sarracenia variolaris* than in the more common *S. purpurea*. He drew the conclusion that in *S. purpurea* the insect-feeding habit was disappearing.

Dr. Horn exhibited a collection of May beetles, including seventy-nine out of the eighty-one species known from North America north of Mexico, and containing three specimens of the very rare *Pleocoma*.

Prof. J. A. Ryder explained the law governing the cleavage of the yoke masses in the eggs of lampreys, frogs, and salamanders, and showed that, contrary to the dictum of Hertwig, it differed from that of the osseous fishes, birds and reptiles.

January 31, 1888.—Prof. Heilprin communicated the results of his studies of the geology of Nantucket, in 1886. The beds at Sankotty had yielded about fifty-five species of fossil mollusks. These beds had hitherto been described as post-pliocene, and the species identified with existing forms. The speaker had found a distinct species of *Neptunea*, besides minor differences in other forms. This proved that these beds are not so recent as has been supposed, and the disposition of the strata indicates a pre-glacial date.

Prof. W. J. Brooks gave the life-history of a jelly-fish, the mode of reproduction of which showed some peculiarities. All asexual forms hitherto known are only capable of reproducing forms like themselves, starting their offspring at the point at which they themselves started. This medusa, however, bears reproductive organs on tubes radiating from the stomach.

Prof. Wilson stated that the so-called sprouts or corky roots of

the black mangrove were largely composed of a peculiar tissue formed of large air cells, and that their function is the aeration of the plant.

Prof. Rothrock spoke of mimicry in plants, and gave as examples the alga-like outgrowth from the spores of mosses, the external resemblances of *Zygadenus*, and *Swertia*, and between *Nepeta glechoma*, and *Lamium amplexicaule*.

Dr. Dolley reported the occurrence of a large parasitic *Ascaris* in *Carcharias ceruleus* (the sand shark).

February 21, 1888.—Dr. Leidy described specimens of a small crustacean (*Cirolana*) found swarming in the bodies of edible crabs.

February 28, 1888.—Prof. H. C. Lewis exhibited a fragment of a meteorite containing diamonds.

Dr. Sharp described specimens of jelly-fish found in a fresh-water pond at Nantucket.

March 6, 1888.—Dr. Sharp spoke of the classification of lamelli-branch molluscs and traced them from a central type such as *Arca*. He considered that the lamellibranchs had degenerated from the gastropods.

March 20, 1888.—Dr. Leidy called the attention of the Academy to numerous specimens of a minute parasitic crustacean from the gills of *Roccus lineatus*. They live suspended on the outer surface of the red gills of the bass. The species is the *Ergasilus labricis* of Kroyer, but is not mentioned in Rathbun's published list of parasitic Crustacea. The same fish frequently bears examples of the worm *Echinorhynchus proteus* in its intestines.

April 3, 1888.—Prof. Heilprin called attention to a human footprint in a slab of volcanic tufa from Lake Managua, Nicaragua. This footprint had been overlaid by a deposit of more than twenty feet in thickness, and the bones of the mastodon were said to have been found in the same deposits. The evidence to be drawn from the shells accompanying the footprint was not considered by the speaker as proving any very great antiquity.

April 17, 1888.—Mr. Meehan spoke of *Shortia galacifolia*, a rare North American plant, of which several thousand examples have been found in the mountains of North Carolina.

Dr. Koenig described a specimen of eleonorite from Sevier county, Arkansas. It occurs in cavities of dufrenite, and is of a blood-red color. The only specimens of the mineral heretofore known have been from the Eleonore mine, near Giessen, Germany.